

Prayers for December 2016, January and February 2017

December

Week beginning December 5th

We are entering Advent – a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord Jesus. We are charged with preparing the hearts and minds of many in our GFS groups who are waiting to hear about Jesus and His power in their lives. May we continue to do this with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we go about our task.

Week beginning December 12th

We give thanks for the many industrious times at the GFS Hall in Sri Lanka as it hosted a sing along and a Pre-Christmas fair. We give thanks for those who meet in this hall and pray that they might be encouraged and strengthened in their faith. We give thanks for Jeanne and her team of willing workers.

Week beginning December 19th

As we prepare for the celebrations, may we be guided to focus on Jesus who came and died for us. We can be caught up in the many frivolous and commercial happenings that have little to do with Christmas. Help us to leave this aside to be quiet before God as we give our thanks for His gift to us.

Week beginning December 26th

We prepare for the start of a new year. Each day is a gift given to us, to be mindful of our blessings and for our 'daily bread'. We pray that we might be ready to look for new ways to worship our Lord, to bring others to know Him and to honour Him in our daily lives.

January

Week beginning January 2nd

We think about the highlight of this year, as we look towards our opportunity to be gathering as one group at World Council. We pray for those who are preparing for World Council - for those who are coming as observers and those representing their countries. We pray for the Australians who are joining together to be helping in preparations for the visit by our GFS family.

Week beginning January 9th

We pray for those who are considering ways to help make changes within their community to put an end to gender based violence. We pray for the victims of this – whether as victims of emotional, physical, social or economic violence and pray that there are many to give them a new life with hope and love surrounding them. We thank you for the USA project aimed to end violence against women, thinking of the girls in the Diocese of LA who made cards to sell to raise funds.

Week beginning January 16th

We pray for those countries beset by natural disasters that destroy homes and communities in their path. Please provide care and restoration quickly to these places. We think especially of the earthquakes in New Zealand and for the Kids Refresh camps run by GFS Japan for children affected

by the Tsunami. We pray for countries afflicted by hurricanes and violent storms and wonder at the power of these natural events.

Week beginning January 23rd

We give thanks for new leaders thinking especially of the many new leaders recently commissioned in Ireland in November. We give thanks for their supporters and those who will mentor them in the years to come and for the girls in their charge.

Week beginning January 30th

We pray for Glenys Paine, as she recovers from recent surgery and pray for everyone who has spent time in hospital that they will have a speedy recovery with time to rest and restore their bodies and minds. We give thanks for the girls in Wales and England who have set up an art show to display their talents. We thank you for the mentoring provided by GFS groups such as New Zealand's example in higher education venues.

February

Week beginning February 6th

As schools begin again in Australia after our summer break we give thanks for the many members who are working together on different projects such as our knitting groups. We thank you for their crafty endeavours often given to help improve the lives of people in need of warmth, love and care. Help us to consider how our talents could be used for improving another's life.

Week beginning February 13th

We bring before you with thanksgiving the Anglican Church of Korea Women's Mission Centre that had its grand opening in September, 2016. We praise God for this venture, 20 years in the making, that is going to be an outreach centre for women not only from GFS. We thank you for the faithful who persevered to see it to fruition knowing the great need for such a centre.

Week beginning February 20th

We pray for the GFS group in Zambia. News of their excitement travels through the Rainbow House connection, linked with Australian supporters, to showcase their work. We read with great pride and joy of their successes and pray for many more opportunities to witness about their Lord.

Week beginning February 27th

We pray for Thembeke and her team as they too prepare in their own country for their term of office and as they prepare to come to Australia. We pray for GFS that they will flourish and prosper as GFS focus is shifted from Australia to South Africa.